

the step of administering to the mammal an effective amount of an agent, wherein the agent is a ligand which binds to, and activates, the growth hormone receptor.

2. A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse post natal environment, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal an effective amount of an agent selected from the group consisting of growth hormone, an analog thereof, and a functionally, equivalent ligand.
3. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mammal has experienced an adverse postnatal environment comprising a hypocaloric or hypercaloric diet.
4. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mammal is an adult mammal.
5. A method as claimed claim 4 wherein the mammal is an adult human.
6. A method as claimed .in claim 5 wherein the agent administered to the mammal is growth hormone.
7. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the agent is administered to the mammal in combination with a, second anti-hypertensive agent.
8. A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse postnatal environment, the method comprising the step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone, an analog thereof or a functionally equivalent ligand in the mammal.
9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the mammal has experienced an adverse postnatal environment comprising a hypocaloric or hypercaloric diet.
10. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in either claim 8 wherein the effective concentration of the growth hormone, an analog thereof or a functionally equivalent ligand is increased through administration of an agent which either stimulates production of growth hormone or which lessens or prevents inhibition of growth hormone activity.

11. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in either claim 8 wherein the effective concentration of growth hormone is increased through direct administration of growth hormone.
12. A method as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 11 wherein the mammal is an adult human.

Claims 13-19 **withdrawn**.